

January 20, 2013

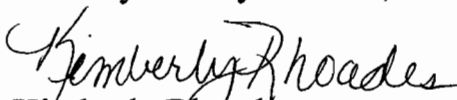
To The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt- States
Case # 12-51502

Hello, my name is Kim Rhoades. My husband, Larry, has been employed at Patriot Coal Company's Federal # 2 mine for 37 years. At the time he was hired at 20 years of age, he was promised that upon retirement, he would have healthcare and a pension. Now that he is approaching the age of that retirement, we are told that Patriot doesn't want to provide that promised healthcare when he retires. If Patriot isn't required to pay into the pension fund, there will likely be cuts in it also. During those 37 years, we accepted a lower hourly wage in return for their promise to provide healthcare and pay into the pension fund.

We are really scared. Five years ago, I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. At the time of my diagnosis, I was in such debilitating pain that I could not walk up stairs, or even get up from a sitting position without help. My hands were so swollen, I kept a towel wrapped around them to try to ease the pain. I couldn't get my swollen feet into shoes, so I wore a large pair of bedroom slippers to go to doctor appointments. I was depressed and cried all the time. I was referred to a wonderful Rheumatologist who prescribed, in my eyes a miracle, Remicade. I go to the hospital every four weeks and get an infusion that takes three hours. Remicade will not make my RA go away, but it significantly slows down the progression of the disease. If not for this drug, my RA would eventually destroy my joints and leave me crippled, not to mention in extreme pain. Without the promised healthcare, we would never be able to afford the cost of this drug every four weeks. I have enclosed a statement showing the cost of my monthly infusion, I also have blood work and a doctor visit every other month added to that.

I don't know if this has any bearing on the bankruptcy or not, but, we believe that Patriot is still Peabody. That Patriot was formed to get out of following thru on these promises.

Thank you for your time,


Kimberly Rhoades


Larry Rhoades
RR 2 Box 334
Farmington, WV 26571

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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102

CLARENCE BUCKNER, WV 2603
22 JAN 2013 PM 2 1

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